

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted prior to continued examination of the present application, and in response to the official action dated February 6, 2006. Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-8 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1-8 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

\$102 and \$103 Rejections

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Armbruster (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,194).

Claims 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Armbruster as applied to claims 1 and 4, and further in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,326,295).

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims (claims 1 and 4) are patentable over Armbruster and Matsumoto.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a tuner apparatus. Each of the claims recites a mixer circuit for upwardly frequency-converting terrestrial TV broadcast signals or CATV broadcast signals into signals that fall within the bandwidth of intermediate-frequency signals of satellite TV broadcasting signals. The upwardly converted terrestrial TV or CATV signals can be amplified using amplifier circuits designed to operate at frequencies higher than the frequencies of the TV or CATV signals prior to up-conversion. Such higher-frequency amplifiers are generally

smaller than the amplifiers commonly used to amplify TV or CATV signals. Thus, the invention realizes the advantage of providing for a reduced-size amplifier circuit which, in turn, provides for a reduced-size tuner apparatus.

Neither Armbruster nor Matsumoto discloses upwardly frequency-converting terrestrial TV broadcast signals or CATV broadcast signals into signals that fall within the bandwidth of intermediate-frequency signals of satellite TV broadcasting signals, and therefore Armbruster and/or Matsumoto cannot realize the advantages of Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Armbruster and Matsumoto - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 5-8 depend respectively on independent claims 1 and 4. Since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, claims 2-3 and 5-8 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claims 1 and 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 09/855,786

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-777

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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